

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY S/S:GSSPRINGSTEEN

S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

WH - GEN. SCOWCROFT

XEUR - MR. ARMITAGE (SUBSTANCE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250350

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT)

SUBJECT: PRESS CONTINGENT AT VLADIVOSTOK

FOR AMBASSADOR STOESEL

1. WHITE HOUSE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM WAS TOLD BY SOVIET COUNTER-PARTS IN VLADIVOSTOK THAT PRESS CONTINGENT ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT WOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO 40. A TOTAL OF 150 PRESS WILL BE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT TO KOREA AND JAPAN.

2. THE SOVIET LIMIT IS OSTENSIBLY DUE TO LIMITATIONS OF FACILITIES BUT PRE-ADVANCE TEAM'S OBSERVATIONS INDICATE SOVIETS COULD PROBABLY HOUSE ENTIRE CONTINGENT IF THE WILL TO DO SO EXISTS.

3. RUMORS OF PRESS LIMITATIONS HAVE CREATED MASSIVE OUT-CRY AMONG PRESS CORPS HERE. WE ARE OF COURSE UNWILLING AND VIRTUALLY UNABLE TO ENFORCE SUCH LIMITATIONS OURSELVES AND TO MAKE SELECTION REQUIRED BY SUCH LIMITATIONS.

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4. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE REQUESTING THAT YOU MAKE DEMARCHE TO APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A) THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS EXPECTS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES BY ENTIRE PRESS CONTINGENT THROUGH-

OUT THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.

B) THE WHITE HOUSE IS UNABLE TO RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF PRESS DESIRING TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT ON THE ENTIRE TRIP.

C) THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE REASON FOR LIMITING THE SIZE OF THE PRESS CONTINGENT WOULD BE REALISTIC LIMITATIONS OF FACILITIES. THIS IS A DECISION THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO MAKE AND IT WILL HAVE TO BE ANNOUNCED AS A SOVIET LIMITATION.

D) SUCH AN EXCLUSION OF THE FULL CONTINGENT WILL UNQUESTIONABLY CAST AN ADVERSE CLOUD OVER THE VLADIVOSTOK VISIT AND RESULT IN EXTENSIVE UNFAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE DETRACTING FROM IF NOT OVERSHADOWING THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

E) WE ARE PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH SOVIET WISHES, BUT WE WISH SOVIETS TO FULLY CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEVERE PRESS CORPS LIMITATIONS, TO EXTENT FULLEST COOPERATION POSSIBLE IN THIS MATTER AND TO PROVIDE US WITH COMPLETE AND PERSUASIVE RATIONALE TO SUPPORT ANY LIMITATIONS IMPOSED.

5. HOPEFULLY, YOUR DEMARCHE WILL LEAD THE SOVIETS TO RELENT ON THEIR LIMITATIONS ASSUMING FACILITIES ARE IN FACT AVAILABLE. SHOULD SUCH LIMITATIONS BE REQUIRED, WE WILL AT LEAST BE IN A BETTER POSITION FOR HAVING MADE DEMARCHE AND CAN PUT THE MONKEY SQUARELY ON SOVIET'S BACK.

6. WE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD.
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YOUR EARLIEST RESPONSE ON THIS IS ESSENTIAL GIVEN THE REMAINING TIME FOR VISAS, LOGISTICS, ETC.

7. FYI: WE PLAN TO TRANSMIT TO YOU BY 1400 EST NOVEMBER 13 THE COMPLETE LIST OF ALL PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT EXCEPT PRESS. KISSINGER

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